

when there is a requirement to evaluate a policy or proposal in the early stages of development or when site-specific analysis or mitigation is not currently feasible and a more narrow or focused analysis is better done at a later date. The site specific review need only reference or summarize the issues addressed in the broader review. The broader review should identify and evaluate those issues ripe for decision and exclude those issues not relevant to the policy, program or project under consideration. The broader review should also establish the policy, standard or process to be followed in the site specific review. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the broader assessment shall include a summary of the assessment and identify the significant issues to be considered in site specific reviews. Subsequent site-specific reviews will not require notices or a Request for Release of Funds unless the Certifying Officer determines that there are unanticipated impacts or impacts not adequately addressed in the prior review. A tiering approach can be used for meeting environmental review requirements in areas designated for special focus in local Consolidated Plans. Local and State Governments are encouraged to use the Consolidated Plan process to facilitate environmental reviews.

**§ 58.17 Historic preservation requirements for prior section 17 grants.**

A recipient of a section 17 grant shall comply with the historic preservation requirements of this part and existing grant agreements.

**§ 58.18 Responsibilities of States assuming HUD responsibilities.**

(a) States that elect to administer a HUD program shall ensure that the program complies with the provisions of this part. The State must:

(1) Designate the State agency or agencies which will be responsible for carrying out the requirements and administrative responsibilities set forth in subpart H of this part and which will:

(i) Develop a monitoring and enforcement program for post-review actions on environmental reviews and monitor

compliance with any environmental conditions included in the award.

(ii) Receive public notices, RROFs and certifications from recipients pursuant to §§ 58.70 and 58.71; accept objections from the public and from other agencies (§ 58.73); and perform other related responsibilities regarding releases of funds.

(2) Fulfill the State role in subpart H relative to the time period set for the receipt and disposition of comments, objections and appeals (if any) on particular projects.

(b) States administering section 17 Programs shall assume the responsibilities set forth in this section for overseeing the State recipient's performance and compliance with NEPA and related Federal authorities as set forth in this part, including receiving RROFs and environmental certifications for particular projects from State recipients and objections from government agencies and the public in accordance with the procedures contained in subpart H of this part. The State shall forward to the responsible HUD Field Office the environmental certification, the RROF and any objections received, and shall recommend whether to approve or disapprove the certification and RROF.

**Subpart C—General Policy:  
Environmental Review Procedures**

**§ 58.21 Time periods.**

All time periods in this part shall be counted in calendar days. The first day of a time period begins at 12:01 a.m. local time on the day following the publication or the mailing and posting date of the notice which initiates the time period.

**§ 58.22 Limitations on activities pending clearance.**

(a) A recipient may not commit HUD assistance funds under a program listed in § 58.1(b) on an activity or project until HUD or the State has approved the recipient's RROF and the related certification of the responsible entity. In addition, until the RROF and related certification has been approved, the recipient may not commit non-HUD funds on an activity or project under a program listed in § 58.1(b) if the

## § 58.23

activity or project would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives. If an activity is exempt under § 58.34, or not subject to § 58.5 under § 58.35(b), no RROF is required and a recipient may undertake the activity immediately after the award of the assistance.

(b) An option agreement on a proposed site or property is allowable prior to the completion of the environmental review if the option agreement is subject to a determination by the recipient on the desirability of the property for the project as a result of the completion of the environmental review in accordance with this part and the cost of the option is a nominal portion of the purchase price. There is no constraint on the purchase of an option by third parties that have not been selected for HUD funding, have no responsibility for the environmental review and have no say in the approval or disapproval of the project.

(c) *Relocation.* Funds may be committed for relocation assistance before the approval of the RROF and related certification for the project provided that the relocation assistance is required by 24 CFR part 42.

## § 58.23 Financial assistance for environmental review.

The costs of environmental reviews, including costs incurred in complying with any of the related laws and authorities cited in § 58.5 and § 58.6, are eligible costs to the extent allowable under the HUD assistance program regulations.

## Subpart D—Environmental Review Process: Documentation, Range of Activities, Project Aggregation and Classification

### § 58.30 Environmental review process.

(a) The environmental review process consists of all the actions that a responsible entity must take to determine compliance with this part. The environmental review process includes all the compliance actions needed for other activities and projects that are not assisted by HUD but are aggregated

## 24 CFR Subtitle A (4–1–00 Edition)

by the responsible entity in accordance with § 58.32.

(b) The environmental review process should begin as soon as a recipient determines the projected use of HUD assistance.

### § 58.32 Project aggregation.

(a) A responsible entity must group together and evaluate as a single project all individual activities which are related either on a geographical or functional basis, or are logical parts of a composite of contemplated actions.

(b) In deciding the most appropriate basis for aggregation when evaluating activities under more than one program, the responsible entity may choose: *functional aggregation* when a specific type of activity (e.g., water improvements) is to take place in several separate locales or jurisdictions; *geographic aggregation* when a mix of dissimilar but related activities is to be concentrated in a fairly specific project area (e.g., a combination of water, sewer and street improvements and economic development activities); or a *combination of aggregation approaches*, which, for various project locations, considers the impacts arising from each functional activity and its interrelationship with other activities.

(c) The purpose of project aggregation is to group together related activities so that the responsible entity can:

(1) Address adequately and analyze, in a single environmental review, the separate and combined impacts of activities that are similar, connected and closely related, or that are dependent upon other activities and actions. (See 40 CFR 1508.25(a)).

(2) Consider reasonable alternative courses of action.

(3) Schedule the activities to resolve conflicts or mitigate the individual, combined and/or cumulative effects.

(4) Prescribe mitigation measures and safeguards including project alternatives and modifications to individual activities.

(d) *Multi-year project aggregation*—(1) *Release of funds.* When a recipient's planning and program development provide for activities to be implemented over two or more years, the responsible entity's environmental review should consider the relationship